Discrimination between GREF and Army personnel

1399. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF) Engineers working in Border Roads Organisation (BRO) are subjected to Army Act for all purposes, including disciplinary proceedings;

(b) whether it is a fact that they are not considered at par with Army and pay and other allowances sanction to them by 5th Pay Commission have not been extended to them;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that there is a lot of difference between GREF personnel and Army with regard to entitlement of leave as Army gets 60 days of annual leave and 30 days of CL whereas GREF personnel get 30 days of EL, 20 days of HPL and 12 days of CL; and

(e) if so, the reasons of discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) GREF Engineers are not governed by Army Act and Rules for all purposes. Certain provisions of Army Act 1950 and Army Rules 1954 have been made applicable to GREF personnel for disciplinary purpose.

(b) GREF personnel are governed by Central Civil Service Rules and their pay and allowances are regulated pursuant to these rules at par with other Central Government employees. However, GREF personnel are entitled to free ration, free clothing, single living accommodation, CSD canteen facilities, free remittance of money which otherwise are not entitled to other civilian employees of the Central Government. Benefits recommended by Central Pay Commissions have been extended to GREF personnel.

(c) GREF personnel and Army are provided facilities like single living accommodation, HRA, free clothing, free ration and CSD. However, Army personnel are entitled to Military Service Pay, Field Area Allowance, Counter Insurgency Operation Allowance when they are posted to Army Units, Instructional Allowance, Compensation in lieu of quarter, Medical leave/sick leave, transport from unit line to rail head on leave, free conveyance when proceeding on medical leave, school bus facility, concession vouchers to which GREF personnel are not entitled. On the other hand, GREF personnel are entitled to Special Duty Allowance in North-East & Leh-Ladakh Region, one additional LTC for one side journey and certain North-East Concessions to which Army personnel are not entitled.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The service conditions of both the services are different. The parameters of enrolment, recruitment and training are entirely different for these two streams. Personnel of GREF are governed under CCS (Leave) Rules whereas Army personnel are covered under separate set of rules and hence the difference.

Setting up coast guard stations

1400. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) in view of the serious lapses in the country's coastal security system, whether it is a fact that his Ministry has decided to set up 9 Coast Guard Stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) the details of Coast Guard Stations proposed to set up along the coast of Andhra Pradesh;

(d) whether the Ministry can also consider for covering the entire coast of the country with radar; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) The Government has approved setting up of twelve (12) additional Coast Guard Stations in the country including two stations at Nizampatnam and Krishnapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. Appropriate steps have been taken for strengthening coastal surveillance and security, including installation of radars.

Joint military exercises with other countries

†1401. DR. RAM PRAKASH:

SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE PATIL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has recently conducted joint naval exercises with different countries;

(b) if so, the amount spent thereon;

(c) whether any proposal regarding joint military exercises of the armed forces in the near future is under consideration of Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.